BOROUGH OF NEATH.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR 1946.

by

H.R.STUBBINS. M.D., D.P.H.

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BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Members of the Neath Borough Council for the year 1946.

The Mayor, Councillor F.A. Loader J.P. (to 1st. Nov.)
Councillor P. Howells J.P. (from 1st Nov.)

Alderman J.W. Morgan.
" J. Richings, J.P.
" J.E. Emanuel.J.P.
" D.C. Griffiths.
" G. Gethin.
" E.C. Hutchinson.

Councillor	D.G. Davies J.P.	(to 1st November)
"	T.G. James	(from 1st November)
"	T.F. Jarman	(to 1st. November)
"	J.W. Jones.	
"	W.K. Owen.	
"	R.W. Perrott.	
"	B. Sutcliffe	(from 1st. November)
"	S.L. Burton.	
"	Miss M.C. Davies.	
"	F.S. Evans.	
"	R. Francis.	
"	G.T. Rosser.	
"	J. Branch	(to 1st. November)
"	C.J. Gaze.	
"	T. Hughes .	
"	B. Morris.	
"	W. Phillips	(from 1st. November)
"	J. Shea.	
"	E. Thomas.	

Clerk to Neath Borough Council: Mr. A.E.I. Curtis.

Members of the Health and Highways Committee: Chairman: Councillor J. Shea.
Vice- Chairman: Councillor S.L. Burton,
and all other members of the Council.

Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee: Chairman: Councillor B. Morris.
Vice-Chairman: Ald. J.E. Emanuel.
Councillor F.A. Loader (Mayor) Ald. J.W. Morgan
Councillors:- J. Branch, Miss M.C. Davies, T.F. Jarman, R. Francis, W.K. Owen, G.T. Rosser.

Co-opted members: Mrs. Arnold, Mrs Cosker, Mrs. Heale, Miss B. James, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs.M.A.Morgan.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Whole-time Officers for the year 1946.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare:-

Haydn R. Stubbins. M.D. (Edin) D.P.H. (Wales)

Sanitary Inspectors:-

Chief Sanitary Inspector:- Evan Thomas
E.V. John
R.T. Probert

All three hold the certificate of Meat and Other Foods of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitors:-

Senior Nurse:- S. Twigg. SRN.CMB.H.V.
C.G. Rigby CMB. H.V.
E.Jones SRN.CMB.H.V.

Clerical Staff:-

Chief Clerk:-G.M. Hopkins.
T.G. Hopkins (Returned from H.M. Forces during 1946)

Temporary Clerks:-M. Abraham
D. Lloyd (Until September,1946)

Part-time Officers.

Dental Surgeon:- T.J. Davies, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:- A.O. Parker, M.D. Surgeon to the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

Consulting Medical Officers.

Obstetrician:- J. Lloyd Davies. O.B.E.M.D.MRCP,FRCSE, D.P.H.

Dermatologist:- D.R. Lewis M.D., F.R.C.P.E.

Paediatrician:- A.G. Watkins. M.D., F.R.C.P.

Public Analyst:- Rhys P. Charles. M.D., F.I.C.

BOROUGH OF NEATH.

Public Health Dept.,
Neath.

9th September, 1947.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors,

of the Borough of Neath.

Mr Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough for the year, 1946.

The year was chiefly notable for the passing of legislation dealing with the Health Services of the country, which has materially affected the powers of the "Minor Authorities" as Borough Councils such as Neath will be called.

During 1946, the old Part III Authorities saw the final transference of the School Medical Services to the County Council. The new Central Administrative machine still continues to creak a little with its added burdens, and after twelve months work I am more than convinced that where Health Services are concerned the personal element is one which is vital to an efficient service.

The National Health Services Act which received the Royal Assent in November, 1946, envisages the transference of practically all your Health Services to the new Local Health Authority - the Glamorgan County Council. It is only fair to state here that they are also to lose the administration of the Hospital Service, a service which has been built up with great enthusiasm, initiative, and achievement.

We are, nevertheless, asking them to remember that the minor authorities have carried out their obligations with an equal amount of enthusiasm, and have made

their contribution to the health of the mother and child. It would be, I am sure, a mistake if these personal health services were taken away.

Dealing with the statistical information contained in the following pages, you will note that the birth-rate for the year at 19.1 per 1,000 of the population was the highest since 1925, the death-rate was the same as last year, the infant mortality rate dropped from 47 to 44 per 1,000 live births, and the maternal mortality rate decreased from 2.05 to 1.65 per 1,000 live and still births.

On the whole the picture is a very satisfactory one but still there can be no room for complacency. These figures can and must be reduced.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
H.F.STUBBINS.
Medical Officer of Health.

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GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (in acres)	Including foreshore	5040
	Excluding "	4502
Rateable value		£168,712
Sum produced by penny rate		£648
Population - Registrar's figures for mid-1946		30,940

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases.

	England and Wales.	126 C.B's and Great Towns incl: London.	148 Smaller Towns, Pop: 25000 - 50,000.	London Res: adminis: trative County.	NEATH.
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	19.1	22.2	21.3	21.5	19.1
Still births.	0.53	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.38
Deaths.					
All causes	11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Not available				0.00
Cancer	"	"			1.9
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)		"		0.71	
(Non-pulmonary)		"		0.09	0.8
Violence		"			0.48
	Rates per 1,000 live births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	43	46	37	41	44
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years.	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	1.6
	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.				
Maternal Mortality.	**No. of deaths.**				
Puerperal Pyrexia		0			0.00
Other maternal causes.		1			1.65

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The following information has been supplied by the administrative Officer for Public Assistance with reference to the Borough of Neath:-

Weekly average of cases chargeable	...	260
Total amount of relief paid	...	£16,903.15.3

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered in the Borough was 591, made up of 318 males and 273 females, giving a birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 19.1

For the administrative County of Glamorgan this was 19.4

England and Wales 19.1

Year	Birthrate	Year	Birthrate.
1946	19.1	1935	15.5
1945	16.0	1934	15.1
1944	18.2	1933	13.5
1943	14.5	1932	16.0
1942	16.1	1931	14.1
1941	13.9	1930	16.3
1940	13.3	1929	16.9
1939	13.9	1928	16.7
1938	14.9	1927	17.0
1937	14.7	1926	18.2
1936	15.5	1925	22.0

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

The total number of illegitimate births registered as referring to residents of the Borough was 22 showing a decrease of 5 compared with 1945, and giving a rate of 37.2 per total live births.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS (Cont)

The numbers of illegitimate children born in the Borough during the past six years were:-

1939	12	1943	17
1940	8	1944	15
1941	9	1945	27
1942	14	1946	22

Health Visitors have special instructions with regard to illegitimate children, and in all the cases they have reported that conditions affecting the children and their homes have been satisfactory.

STILLBIRTHS.

The number of stillbirths registered was 12, giving a rate of 19.6 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and 0.38 per 1,000 civilian population.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year, of all ages, was 395, males 203, females 192. This gives a death-rate of 12.8 and may be compared with previous years in the following table:-

1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
12.6	12.2	12.4	11.9	14.7	13.7	12.6	12.0	12.7

The Ward distribution of deaths was as follows:-

North Ward	133	South Ward	161	Briton Ferry Ward.	101

The table on page 10 gives a classification of the causes of deaths as recorded by the Registrar-General. Age groups are given below:-

Under 1 year	26	40 - 45 years	8
1 - 5 years	5	45 - 50 "	13
5 -10 "	2	50 - 55 "	20
10 -15 "	1	55 - 60 "	31
15 -20 "	3	60 - 70 "	83
20 -25 "	6	70 - 80 "	111
25 -30 "	7	80 - 90 "	50
30 -35 "	8	Over 90 "	10
35 -40 "	12		

CANCER DEATHS.

40 of the 59 deaths were in persons between the ages of 60 and 90. The actual cause of cancer still evades the efforts of Research workers. We have yet to discover why cancer cells begin to be found instead of the normal cells after middle age. Nevertheless, with the improved methods of diagnosis and treatment, cancer like most other diseases should be treated at the earliest possible moment to ensure a complete cure.

The age distribution was as follows:

Age.	Males.	Females.
35 - 45 years	1	-
45 - 55 "	5	5
55 - 60 "	6	2
60 - 70 "	12	9
70 - 80 "	5	10
80 - 90 "	1	3
	30	29

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE.

When considering the table of deaths from accidents, etc., one has always the feeling that most, if not all, of them are avoidable.

It is rather remarkable that whilst there was only one fatal accident in the works in the Borough, there were on the other hand 7 deaths from accidents in the home - 5 in elderly females. Present day conditions in industry have improved immensely from what they used to be and the welfare of the employee is nowadays a factor which is always present in the mind of the employer.

On the other hand conditions in the homes are not so favourable. Elderly people, often unfit, must of necessity do all the housework themselves. A simple fall, such as tripping over a loose rug or mat may lead to very grave consequences through fracture of the thigh.

Deaths by Violence (Cont.)

One could at this stage plead for more consideration by authorities for the welfare of the aged in the form of residential Homes and Domestic Helps.

The number of deaths caused by violence was 15. The following table gives the causes of deaths, and ages:-

Cause of death.	Ages. Males.	Females.
Burns and Scalds.	53	38
Road Traffic accidents	69	7
Accidents in employment	38	
Fall		61, 73, 84, 81, 85
Suicide	34	29, 34, 44
Drowning	76	
Total	5	10

DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE AND VASCULAR LESIONS.

Again these are easily the most serious causes of deaths in our area. They caused over 33% of the deaths in 1946. Some authorities believe that the stress and strain, and the rush of modern life, play an important part in their causation, others believe that the more accurate diagnosis in the actual cause of death accounts for the increase in these diseases.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Figures given by Registrar - General.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	0	1	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	12	22
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Syphilitic diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	0	0	0
Acute Infantile encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer of Buccav & Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	6	3	9
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	7	11	18
Cancer of breast	0	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	17	12	29
Diabetes	0	5	5
Intracranial vascular lesions	14	28	42
Heart Disease	49	43	92
Other diseases of circulatory system	10	7	17
Bronchitis	13	6	19
Pneumonia	12	5	17
Other respiratory diseases	6	3	9
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	0	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	0	1
Appendicitis	2	0	2
Other digestive diseases	5	6	11
Nephritis	5	7	12
Puerperal & Post-abort:Sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	1	0
Premature Births	3	2	5
Congenital malformation; birth injuries and infant diseases	10	1	11
Suicide	1	3	4
Road Traffic accidents	1	1	2
Other violent causes	5	4	9
All other causes	20	26	46
	203	192	395

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY) - VITAL STATISTICS 1946.

DISTRICT.	Estimated Population 1946	BIRTHS. Number of Births.	BIRTHS. Rate per 1,000 Population.	DEATHS. Number of Deaths.	DEATHS. Rate per 1,000 Population.	INFANT MORTALITY. Deaths under 1 year.	INFANT MORTALITY. Rate per 1,000 Births.
Administrative County	710,160	13,799	19.4	8,591	12.1	624	45
Urban Districts	520,490	10,284	19.8	6,501	12.5	462	45
Rural Districts	189,670	3,515	18.5	2,090	11.0	162	46
England & Wales	-	-	19.1	-	11.5	-	43
Urban Districts.							
Aberdare	39,920	658	16.5	581	14.6	30	46
Barry	38,010	817	21.5	449	11.8	38	47
Bridgend	12,770	225	20.0	132	10.3	7	27
Caerphilly	32,240	759	23.5	401	12.4	34	46
Cowbridge	1,255	19	15.1	11	8.8	1	53
Gelligaer	35,980	794	22.1	422	11.7	43	54
Glyncorrwg	8,904	197	22.1	105	11.8	14	71
Llwchwr	25,510	395	15.5	284	11.1	17	43
Maesteg	22,660	500	22.1	255	11.3	25	50
Mountain Ash	31,880	635	19.9	388	12.2	32	50
Neath	30,940	591	19.1	395	12.8	26	44
Ogmore & Garw	23,310	455	19.5	275	11.8	15	33
Penarth	16,720	312	18.7	215	12.9	10	32
Pontypridd	38,730	778	20.1	502	13.0	41	53
Porthcawl	8,541	146	17.1	113	13.2	2	14
Port Talbot	40,000	770	19.3	477	11.9	33	43
Rhondda	113,120	2,203	19.4	1,496	13.2	94	43
Rural Districts.							
Cardiff	35,770	619	17.3	367	10.3	26	42
Cowbridge	12,790	281	22.0	136	10.7	18	64
Gower	10,830	201	18.6	128	11.8	15	75
Llantrisant	23,090	488	21.1	271	11.5	18	36
Neath	40,090	741	18.5	448	11.2	35	47
Penybont	33,400	599	17.9	333	10.0	20	33
Pontardawe	33,100	575	17.4	407	12.3	30	52

INFANT DEATHS -CAUSE AND AGE.

Cause.	Under one month.		Over 1 month & under 1 year.		Total.		Total M & F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Premature birth.	3	2	-	-	3	2	5
Birth difficulty.	4	-	-	-	4	-	4
Pneumonia.	1	-	3	3	4	3	7
Maramus.	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
Bronchitis.	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Meningitis.	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Asphyxia.	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Intussusception.	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Inanition.	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Congenital causes.	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Total ...	11	2	10	3	21	5	26

Deaths of Premature Infants.

	At home.	In Hospital.
Under 24 hours.	2	2
" 1 week.	-	-
" 1 month.	2	1
Over 1 "	-	-
	2	3

INFANT MORTALITY.

This is regarded as a very sensitive index of Social Welfare and Sanitary improvements. It is generally measured by the deaths under one year of age per thousand live births in the same year.

Our Infant Mortality rate of 44 per 1,000 live births in 1946 can be regarded as satisfactory. Many authorities believe that we are fast approaching that state when it will not be possible to reduce the infant mortality rate any further, but with modern research into causes and treatment of such conditions as prematurity, gastro-enteritis, pneumonia, etc. which account for the majority of our infant deaths, there can ideally be no such figure unless it be nil.

Such important conditions as housing, nutrition, and adequate hospitalisation, leave much to be desired, for they all play their part, and until these are adequately dealt with we cannot, as yet, speak of reducing the irreducible minimum.

Comparative figures of Infant Deaths for previous years.

1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
22	18	30	29	35	27	17	28	27	34

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of material submitted by the Health Department of the Corporation is carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

The number of specimens submitted during the year were:-

LABORATORY FACILITIES (Cont)

Swabs to be examined for the presence of Diphtheria bacilli		...	44
Milk samples	...	...	88
Water samples	...	...	110

Under the Food and Drugs Act the Analyst is Mr Rhys P.Charles,M.D.,F.L.C.,of Bournemouth, to whom all material for analysis is sent.

Six samples were submitted to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, for the Zondek Aschiem test.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Borough ambulances were available when required for non-infectious cases. For the removal to hospital of patients suffering from infectious diseases the Joint Hospital Board maintain their own ambulance.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Queen's Nursing Association, and the Briton Ferry Nursing Association,in Neath and Briton Ferry respectively,maintain a high standard of general and maternity nursing in the Borough. For cases of infectious diseases the Health Visitors are available for help and advice. Although there is no definite co-ordination between the Nursing associations and the Council, the latter recognise the value of the work that is being done by their administration of the John Taylor Charity Fund. The amount received by Neath Nursing Association from this fund during the year was £22.13.4, and Briton Ferry Nursing Association £61.6.8.

In addition to the above, the Glamorgan County Council maintain six qualified midwives for maternity work only.

HOSPITALS.

Tonna Isolation Hospital:

This is a hospital under a Joint Board of the Neath Borough and Neath Rural District Authorities. It has 54 beds and under normal conditions provides ample accommodation for the area. The number of cases admitted from the Borough for the year, 1946, are enumerated below:-

Disease.		No. of cases admitted.
Paratyphoid	...	3
Diphtheria	...	37
Scarlet Fever	...	27
Mumps	...	1
Chickenpox	...	1
Observation cases	...	18

Smallpox Hospital:

Smallpox cases can be admitted to the Fedw-Hir Smallpox Hospital, Aberdare, Neath being one of the Joint Authorities which belong to the Fedw-Hir Hospital Scheme. No occasion arose for the admission of cases of smallpox during the year. The proportion of the cost of maintaining this hospital paid by the Borough of Neath for the year ended 31st December, 1946, was £165.18.3.

West Glamorgan Hospital:

This Hospital at Penrhiwtyn, Neath, is a fully equipped Municipal hospital of 344 beds, of which 39 are reserved for maternity cases. The hospital admits all cases, excepting infectious conditions, requiring hospital treatment. It has become an inportant centre for obstetrics. Owing to the increasing numbers of maternity cases admitted, the Health Committee of the County Council have found it necessary to build a new maternity block to the hospital.

Although the new maternity block has been in the course of erection for the past few years difficulty in obtaining labour and materials has delayed its completion . We are anxiously awaiting its opening, for unless a bed is reserved as early as the second month of pregnancy it is hopeless for a mother to have her confinement at the hospital. This has becomea real problem to

West Glamorgan Hospital (Cont)

many because of the over-crowding which exists and the difficulty in obtaining domestic help during the lying-in period.

During the year 1,099 births were notified from West Glamorgan Hospital. Of these 261 were from the Borough of Neath, and 838 from outside areas.

The percentage of births from the Borough of Neath at the hospital was 44.

The Glamorgan County Council have now introduced a clinic for cases requiring plastic surgery. We are very interested in this clinic because for the treatment of harelip and cleft palate in our infants it has previously been necessary to send them to Gloucester, or to the Children's Hospital at Great Ormond Street, London.

Sanatoria:

Gwna Hospital, which is a Tuberculosis Hospital under the jurisdiction of the Welsh National Memorial Association is within the Borough, but numbers of residents who are affected with tuberculosis are also sent to Graig-y-Nos, Talgarth, and Sully Hospitals, according to where accommodation is available.

The new Emergency Hospital at Morriston has recently allocated a certain number of beds for tubercular patients, and cases from Neath have been admitted to this hospital.

Swansea General and Eye Hospital:

This is a voluntary hospital of 250 beds, and admits general medical and surgical cases but does not cater for obstetric cases.

Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

This is the recognised Orthopaedic Hospital for this area. The Child Welfare Committee has an arrangement with the hospital for the provision of operative treatment and surgical appliances for children under 5 years of age.

Highbury Nursing Home:

This is the only private Nursing Home in the Borough, It has 12 beds, and during the year admitted 28 maternity cases from the Borough.

DISINFECTION.

During the year the disinfection of articles of clothing and infected houses in the Borough was carried out at the homes of infected persons by means of formaldehyde vapour.

Every case of infectious disease was visited, and where suitable, disinfection was carried out. All blankets and clothing which had been in close contact with the case were conveyed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected there before the patients returned home.

DISINFESTATION.

This was carried out by the Thermatox method.

(For further information see Sanitary Inspector's report.)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The work carried out in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare includes:-

1. Health Visiting.
2. Infant Consultations at the Welfare Centres.
3. Ante-natal clinics and visiting.
4. Ultra-violet Light Therapy for infants and expectant mothers.
5. Provision of dental treatment for expectant mothers in necessitous cases.
6. Provision of milk, and vitamin products for mothers and children under 5 years.
7. Diphtheria Immunisation clinics.

In addition, orthopaedic, dental, visual, ear, nose and throat treatment is given in co-operation with the County Medical Officer.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

As a result of the Education Act of 1944, a reorganisation of the treatment centres and clinics was found to be necessary.

The County Council who under the Act became responsible for the treatment of school children were desirous of using our clinics as treatment centres, and so from the 31st March, 1945, clinic arrangements for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee were arranged as follows:-

Antenatal clinics:-	Dyfed Road - Thursdays at 2.30 p.m. Hunter St. - Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m.
Maternity & Child Welfare:-	Dyfed Road - Fridays, at 2.30 p.m. St. Catherine's Parish Hall - Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. Hunter Street-Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m.
Ultra-Violet Light Therapy:-	Tuesdays - 10 a.m. at Dyfed Road Clinic.
Diphtheria Immunisation:-	At all Child Welfare Clinics.

Hunter Street Clinic with its equipment was the property of the Neath Borough Council, but, owing to the fact that it was being used mainly by the School Medical Services, it became under the new Education Act, the property of the County Education Committee. Neath Borough Maternity and Child Welfare Committee now have to pay the Glamorgan County Council for the use of Hunter Street Clinic.

Tuberculosis Clinic: The Welsh National Memorial Association hold clinics on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays of each week.

Venereal Diseases Clinic: This is maintained by the Glamorgan County Council, and is held at Port Talbot. It is situated near Port Talbot Railway Station and is open for males on Mondays, and for females on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

HEALTH VISITING.

The passing of the Education Act, 1944, has meant a reorganisation of the staff and the work of the Health Visitors. In the past you employed four Health Visitors who devoted half their time to school work. Under the new Act one Health Visitor has been transferred to the County Council as a full-time School Nurse, leaving three Health Visitors to work the Borough full-time.

The birth of every child in the Borough must be notified to me within 36 hours by a responsible person present at birth, namely, the doctor or midwife. As soon as possible after the first fortnight the child is visited by one of the health visitors. A note is made of the home conditions, and advice given to the mother as to feeding, clothing, etc., of the child. Further visits are made according to the progress of the child.

The following summary provides some information regarding the activities of the health visitors during the year:-

1.	Children under 1 year of age	...	4,608
2.	Investigations of stillbirths	...	12
3.	Children 1 - 5 years of age	...	5,470

Each health visitor is also engaged at minor ailment clinics on two mornings in each week, and at Child Welfare clinics on two afternoons in each week. Thus they come into contact with the mothers and children at the centres, and become aware of the advice which is given there by the Medical Officer. They are also able to follow up this advice in the subsequent visits to the homes.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The administration of the Child Life Protection Clauses under Part V11 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was continued by the Council during the year, being under the direction of the Senior Health Visitor, acting as Child Life Protection Visitor.

MINOR AILMENTS.

The following cases were seen at the clinics at Dyfed Road, St. Catherine's Parish Hall, and Hunter Street:-

Alimentary	130	Nose and throat	95
Allergy	5	Hernia	28
Asthma	2	Enuresis	5
Bronchitis	21	Infectious diseases	6
Cougns	49	Injuries	17
Burns & Scalds	8	Rheumatism	1
Anaemia	60	Ringworm	1
Cellulitis	13	Skin	139
Cleft Palate & Harelip	2	Scabies	3
Congenital deformities	14	Whooping Cough	21
Phymosis	10	Teeth	29
Rickets	1	Nerve and Brain	17
Oxyurides	2	Mental	1
Ear affections	400	Glands	13
Eye affections	67	Orthopaedic	24
		Miscellaneous	3

Cases referred to Inspector Stephens N.S.P.C.C. 2

Attendances at Clinics.

	No. of children attending first time.		Total attendances at clinics.
	Under 1 year.	over 1 & under 5 yrs.	
Dyfed Rd.	255	30	3.800
St. Cath's Hall.	161	23	2,423
Hunter St.	165	6	3,009
	581	59	9,232

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Two sessions per week are devoted to the supervision of expectant mothers. The Medical Officer of Health, the senior nurse, and one health visitor are present at each session. The number of expectant mothers who attended at the clinics is shown in the following figures:-

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

	Neath.	Briton Ferry.
Cases brought forward from 1945	54	15
New cases in 1946	144	40
Carried forward to 1947	106	34

Dental Treatment:-	Extractions	1	Dentures	3
Ultra-violet ray therapy:-	Cases	86	Attendances	1,032
Infra-red " "	Cases	18	Attendances	72

Cases treated at ante-natal clinics are shown below:-

Skin affections	22
Abnormal presentations	11
Hyperpiesia	21
Abnormal bleeding	22
Albuminuria	36
Oedema	28
Severe anaemia	30
Vomiting etc.	29
Digestive ailments	44
Insomnia and nervous conditions	46
Influenza	24
Pulmonary conditions	20
Heart	8
Varix	29
Zondek Aschiem tests	6
Rh Factor tests	11

The pupil midwives who are employed at Neath Queen's Nursing Association, and Briton Ferry Nursing Association, attend to assist at the Ante-Natal clinics held at Dyfed Road and Hunter Street Clinics.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The term 'Maternal Mortality' relates to the deaths of mothers from conditions peculiar to pregnancy and childbirth, and is expressed as a ratio which the number bears to 1,000 (live and still) births.

One maternal death occurred in hospital.

Deaths:	Puerperal Fever	Nil.	)
	Other maternal causes	1	) Mortality rate 1.6

VISUAL DEFECTS.

Seven children under 5 years of age were examined and supplied with spectacles.

All new cases of visual defects are now referred to the County Medical Officer of Health who arranges for children to be seen by one of his Medical Officers at Hunter Street Clinic for a fee of 2/- per case.

OPERATIONS FOR REMOVAL OF TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Nine children under 5 years of age were operated upon for the removal of tonsils and adenoids,

PLASTIC SURGERY.

One case was referred to the Sick Children's Hospital, at Great Ormond Street, London, for repair of Hare-lip.

ULTRA-VIOLET RAY CLINICS.

223 children under 5 years of age attended at these clinics during the year, with a total number of 966 attendances.

INFESTATION BY HEAD LICE.

The Health Visitors have again paid particular attention to this part of their work, and all cases discovered were treated with Lethane Hair Oil with satisfactory results.

ORTHOPAEDICS.

14 children under 5 were examined at the Glamorgan County Council orthopaedic clinics and appliances were supplied to children where required.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases notified.

Infectious disease.	Total No. of cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hosp:	Total. No. of Deaths
Paratyphoid Fever	3	3	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	15	1	1
Diphtheria.	37	37	-
Scarlet Fever.	46	47	-
Measles.	10	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	In hospital	-
Pneumonia.	11	-	-
Dysentery.	1	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-	-

Paratyphoid Fever:

For the first time for many years paratyphoid fever appeared in the Borough. Three cases were notified. There did not appear to be any connection between these three cases, and the actual cause was not discovered. There was one death. It seemed that paratyphoid was appearing in isolated groups all over the County at that period.

Whooping Cough.

Fifteen cases of this disease were notified, with one death.

The Ministry are at present conducting field trials at Leeds, Manchester, and London, with a new vaccine. The results are so promising that it is hoped in the near future to produce a prophylactic agent as efficient in the prevention of Whooping-cough as the agent we are now using for the prevention of diphtheria.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES(Cont)

Measles:

10 cases of Measles were notified during the year, one of which was treated at Tonna Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths from this disease.

Cerebro-spinal Fever:

No cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever:

36 cases were notified, and 27 admitted to hospital. If adequate nursing and isolation facilities were available at the homes no objection was raised to allowing the cases to be treated at their own homes by their own doctors.

Diphtheria:

Although 37 cases of diphtheria were notified and admitted to hospital there were no deaths.

Smallpox:

Several cases were seen during the year of soldiers who on their way home from the East were contacts of smallpox. These were notified to me by the Port Medical Officers and were kept under observation for the duration of the incubation period.

Scabies:

667 attendances were made by patients attending at the Scabies Cleansing Centre at Dyfed Road during the year. This centre is proving to be a great boon to the people who have been unfortunate enough to contract scabies. We are having difficulty in persuading adult male sufferers to attend with their families, and it must be stressed that unless the whole family is dealt with at the same time reinfection takes place and treatment must begin again.

The cases are referred to us by Medical practitioners and by the school nurses. The nurses discover the infected school children, and visits to the homes follow.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Cont)

Comparative table of Notifications.

	England and Wales.	126 Cty Boroughs and great towns, incl: London.	148 Smaller Towns, Resid: Population 25,000 - 50,000	London Adminis: County.	NEATH.
Typhoid Fever.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.09
Cerebral-spinal "	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.16
Whooping Cough.	2.28	2.48	2.03	2.22	0.48
Diphtheria.	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	1.19
Erysipelas.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.00
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	0.32
Pneumonia.	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.35

Rates per 1,000 Total births. (Live and still)

Puerperal Fever	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62	1.65
" Pyrexia				9.68	

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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The total number of children who were immunised against diphtheria at 31st December, aged 1 - 15 years was 4,752.

The number of notifications of diphtheria since 1940, with other information, follows:-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Cont.)

	No of cases notified.	No. immunised.
1940	98	-
1941	42	5
1942	64	-
1943	30	7
1944	33	4
1945	31	3
1946	36	0

These figures refer to cases of all ages, and not only to children between the ages of 1 - 15 years.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

No. of children who had completed the full course up to 31st December, 1947.

Under 1 year.	1yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9yrs.	10-14yrs.	Total under 15.
10.	228	422	317	355	1448	1972	4752

Age at date of Notif:	Notifications. No. of cases notif:	Notifications. No. of cases in which child had completed course.	Deaths. No. of deaths.	Deaths. No. of cases immunised.
Under 1 yr	-	-	-	-
1 year.	-	-	-	-
2 years.	2	2	-	-
3 "	2	1	-	-
4 "	2	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	6	3	-	-
10 - 14 "	3	-	-	-
Totals.	15	6	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Figures are given below of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during the year:-

Age periods.	New Cases. Pulmonary M.	New Cases. Pulmonary F.	New Cases. Non-pulmonary M.	New Cases. Non-pulmonary F.	Deaths Pulmonary M.	Deaths Pulmonary F.	Deaths Non-Pulm. M.	Deaths Non-Pulm. F.
0 - 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	1	3	1	-	-	-
5 -10 "	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 "	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	-
15-20 "	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
20-25 "	1	8	-	1	-	2	-	-
25-35 "	4	4	1	1	2	4	-	-
35-45 "	5	6	-	-	3	4	-	-
45-55 "	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55-65 "	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	16	23	5	6	10	12	2	1

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at year ended 31st December, 1939, and years ended 31st December, 1946 are given below:-

	Pulmonary. Males	Pulmonary. Females.	Non-pulmonary. Males	Non-pulmonary. Females.	Total.
31.12.39	70	72	62	52	256
31.12.46.	164	169	56	57	446

TUBERCULOSIS (Cont.)

Number of cases per 1,000 population notified suffering from Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Total.
31.12.39.	4.5	3.6	8.1
31.12.46.	10.7	3.6	14.3

Notifications and deaths for past 24 years.

	Notifications.		Deaths.	
Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1923	48	11	40	6
1924	40	18	31	6
1925	37	18	29	2
1926	43	16	33	5
1927	44	19	33	2
1928	42	31	23	6
1929	55	25	27	4
1930	81	39	33	3
1931	108	23	28	5
1932	77	22	32	4
1933	44	18	29	4
1934	81	33	24	3
1935	43	13	28	4
1936	30	11	27	1
1937	41	12	20	6
1938	37	8	23	3
1939	40	9	27	4
1940	42	10	27	6
1941	44	12	31	1
1942	75	18	16	2
1943	64	16	33	3
1944	43	15	26	8
1945	69	18	22	5
1946	39	11	22	3

HOME HELPS.

On three separate occasions during the year a scheme for the provision of Home Helps was inaugurated. A Town's meeting was called and representatives from most of the local organisations attended.

The proposed scheme was explained in detail to the delegates who promised to do everything in their power to publicise the scheme. Following upon this a publicity campaign was inaugurated, and addresses were given in many parts of the Borough.

Unfortunately the campaign was not a success, and not a single application was received for a post under the Home Help Scheme.

From questions raised at the various meetings I gathered that the main objections were:-

1. Reluntance to undertake domestic work. This, I believe, is due to the status and conditions of domestic servants which existed prior to 1939.

2. The terms offered were not attractive enough.

3. A scarcity of female labour. The opening of factories in the area which give employment to a high percentage of female labour. These factories ensure security, good working conditions, and better wages than those offered under the Home Help Scheme.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the Borough comes from the Gnoll, Briton Ferry, and Ystradfellte waterworks. From the two former the water is filtered and chlorinated, and from the latter, chlorinated only. Continuous samples were taken during the year from the three sources of supply before and after treatment. Monthly samples are taken as a routine measure for bacteriological examination.

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination at houses, schools, hospitals, factories and public houses during the year	75
From Springs	2
" Swimming Pool	6
Bacteriological	83
Chemical ...	5

Excepting a few farms and bungalows in the outlying areas which are on a private supply, all the houses, shops, etc., are connected to the Borough supply.

RAINFALL.

1946.	Gnoll. Inches.	Cimla. Inches.	Cefn Cwrt. Inches.
January.	6.30	5.90	5.46
February.	4.50	4.71	4.23
March.	1.40	1.44	1.48
April	1.89	1.98	1.99
May.	3.15	3.60	3.56
June.	6.40	6.38	5.94
July	4.30	3.52	4.25
August.	8.33	8.77	7.29
September.	9.16	9.74	8.49
October.	1.50	2.00	1.82
November.	9.98	9.29	8.38
December.	5.32	5.31	4.71
	62.23	62.64	57.60

Curtailment of supply: In North and South Wards from 30th April to 15th May supply was curtailed to 16 hours per day. From 16th May to 4th June to 14 hours per day.